study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84 which estimated undisclosed money between Rs. 31584 crore to Rs. 36786 crore.

(b) The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997 came into force on 1.7.1997 and lasted till 31.12.1997.

The total number of declarants who availed of the benefits of the scheme is 4,75,798. The total amount of taxes collected including interest is Rs. 9583.83 crore. The total amount of undisclosed income declared under the scheme is Rs. 33,339.03 crore.

(c) & (d) As of now, no other scheme for disclosing black money is under consideration of the Government.

(e) The Government have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, from time to time to unearth the undisclosed money. Rates of taxation have been progressively rationalised. Besides, the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at unearthing the undisclosed money. These include, inter-alia, provision regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under sections 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under sections 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, preemptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalities and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys and searches etc. to detect tax evasion. A new procedure for making assessments in cases of search has been introduced with the levy of tax on undisclosed income at 60%. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases.

बकायाशोध्य कर

*392. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) आयकर और नियमित कर की कितनी राशि बकाया है;

(ख) एक करोड़ रुपये से अधिक राशि कितने व्यक्तियों पर बकाया है;

(ग) ऐसे व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं; और

(घ) इस राशि को वसूल करने हेतु सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर॰ जनार्दनन): (क) 31-3-1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार, आयकर और निगम कर की बकाया धनराशि 42,947 करोड़ रु॰ (अनंतिम) है।

(ख) 31-3-1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार 2515 मामले ऐसे हैं, जहां 1 करोड़ रु॰ और उससे अधिक बकाया मांग है।

(ग) ऐसे व्यक्तियों के नामों की सूची काफी विस्तृत होगी। अतः इसे तैयार करने में लगने वाला समय और प्रयास प्राप्त किए जाने वाले उद्देश्यों के अनुरुप नहीं हो सकते।

(घ) कर की वसूली एक निरन्तर चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है जिसमें विस्तृत सांविधिक प्रक्रियाएं अन्तर्ग्रस्त हैं। उनमें ब्याज की वसूली करना, अर्थ दंड लगाना, बैंक खाते की कुर्की, चल और अचल सम्पत्तियों आदि की कुर्की और बिक्री करना शामिल है। उच्च मांग वाले मामलों की आवधिक पुनरीक्षा और निगरानी सतत आधार पर उच्च प्राधिकारियों द्वारा की जाती है और करों की वसूली करने के लिए समय-समय पर आवश्यक अनुदेश जारी किए जाते हैं।

Calcutta as A-1 City

*393. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Calcutta High Court's Order asking Central Government to declare Calcutta as A-1 city; and

(b) if so, by when Government is going to honour the Hon'ble High Court's order?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The High Court at Calcutta had directed the Central Government to take immediate steps to declare Calcutta as 'A-1' city if it fulfils all the necessary conditions. The Govenment have issued orders on May 18, 1998, classifying Calcutta as 'A-1' city for the purpose of grant of HRA to the Central Government employees.

Effect of War-Cries on Investment in the Sub-Continent

*394. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether war-cries on both sides of the border have made the sub-continent risky for all investments, domestic and foreign; and

(b) if so, to what extent it will affect investments, sector-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A certain degree of uncertainty has been created by sanctions and suspensions of external assistance. It is, however, too early to indicate any effect of this on investment, partly because precise nature of the sanctions/suspensions is unclear. The policy of the government is to ensure that management of the economy creates a sense of confidence in domestic and foreign investors and in international financial markets. This would ensure that the impact of uncertainty would be minimised.

Amount Written off as Bad Debts by the Nationalised Banks

*395. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks have been allowed to write-off outstanding bad debts;

(b) if so, the criteria and bank-wise amounts written-off during each of the last three years;

(c) the top five companies/individuals in case of each nationalised bank in whose cases debts have been written off during each of the last three years, alongwith their original outstanding amount, amount written off and the present outstanding amount, year-wise; and

(d) the system of fixing responsibility and associated accountability for such outstanding amounts in different banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The introduction of Financial Sector Reforms and revised guidelines have necessitated banks to desist from the practice of taking unrealised income in their books and also to provide against possible loan losses. Due to their increased sensitivity to credit risk, banks are laying emphasis on reduction of NPAs. The banks have broadly two alternatives for recovery of bad loans:

1. File suit which may take years to settle and even if banks get decree in their favour, recovery of the dues may be time assuming. The recovery of dues after effux of much time may not be commensurate with legal and other expenditure incurred on recoveries;
2. Negotiate with the borrowers to realise maximum possible amount even if they have to sacrifice certain dues such as interests debited to account after it has become NPA etc. by entering into a compromise and write-off the amount sacrificed. Except in very rate cases, banks do not permit write-off of the principal loan amount.

Banks have been writing off bad debts generally where the prospects for recovery are remote, no tangible/realisable securities are available to cover the debts, legal action takes unduly long period, the